

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09061 240840Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9059
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BURGER, WARREN)
SUBJECT: ITINERARY FOR CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER'S TRIP TO USSR

REF: (A) STATE 137499, (B) STATE 143753

1. SUMMARY: DURING DISCUSSION OF TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER'S VISIT TO USSR WITH AN AIDE TO USSR SUPREME COURT CHAIRMAN SMIRNOV, LATTER RECOMMENDED STRONGLY THAT A VISIT TO TBILISI BE ADDED TO THE SCHEDULE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, WHICH WOULD POSTPONE HIS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW BY ONE DAY. THIS WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF ELIMINATING A CONFLICT IN SMIRNOV'S SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PREPARING COMMENTS ON CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER'S MOSCOW SCHEDULE, EMBOFF CONTACTED PETROSYAN, AIDE TO CHAIRMAN OF USSR SUPREME COURT SMIRNOV FOR CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET SIDE'S PROGRAM FOR VISIT. PETROSYAN STATED THAT HIS OFFICE JUST SENT CABLE TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON PROPOSING THAT CHIEN KASCICDZAY ANB GAS STILL WORKING FOR APPROVAL OF EXPANDED SCHEDULE.

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3. ITINERARY PETROSYAN SUGGESTED WOULD HAVE CHIEF JUSTICE PARTY FLY TO TBILISI DIRECTLY FROM LENINGRAD ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 2 (INSTEAD OF TAKING NIGHT TRAIN TO MOSCOW). PARTY WOULD SPEND TWO DAYS IN GEORGIA AND TAKE SEPTEMBER 4 MORNING FLIGHT TO MOSCOW, ARRIVING AT MIDDAY. PETROSYAN MADE IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR VISIT

TO "A BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN SOVIET REPUBLIC" AND ASKED
THAT EMBASSY SUPPORT SOVIET PROPOSAL.

4. IF SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOLLOWED, SMIRNOV WOULD MEET
CHIEF JUSTICE IN LENINGRAD AND SPEND THE DAY WITH HIM
AUGUST 31. SMIRNOV WOULD LEAVE FOR MOSCOW THAT NIGHT
BECAUSE OF A LONG-STANDING ENGAGEMENT TO BE PRESENT AT
"AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE" ON SEPTEMBER 1-3. ACCORDING
TO PETROSYAN, THE CHIEF JUSTICE IS AWARE OF SMIRNOV'S
COMMITMENT FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1-3.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THERE IS A CONFLICT
BETWEEN THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE PROVIDED IN REF "A",
WHICH HAS THE CHIEF JUSTICE ARRIVING IN MOSCOW ON THE
MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 3, AND SMIRNOV'S SCHEDULED ATTENDANCE
THAT DAY AT HIS CONFERENCE. PETROSYAN CAME CLOSE TO
ADMITTING THAT SOVIET SIDE'S PROPOSAL FOR THE CHIEF
JUSTICE TO VISIT TBILISI WAS TO SOME EXTENT DESIGNED
TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY POSTPONING THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S
ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW BY ONE DAY.

6. WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO ADDITION OF TBILISI TO
ITINERARY AND IN FACT CONSIDER IT PREFERABLE TO MOSCOW
SCHEDULE AS PROPOSED IN REF A, WHICH IS OVERLOADED
WITH "OFFICIAL" IDEOLOGICALLY-SLANTED ACTIVITIES OF
LIMITED INTEREST (I.E., VISITS TO MUSEUM OF REVOLUTION,
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ECONOMIC EXHIBITION). IN ANY CASE, REVISED ITINERARY
CUTTING TIME IN MOSCOW BY ONE DAY WOULD STILL ALLOW
SUFFICIENT TIME FOR VISITS TO SOVIET LEGAL INSTITUTIONS,
AS WELL AS SIGHTSEEING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. AMBASSADOR
REAFFIRMS INVITATION TO CHIEF JUSTICE TO STAY AT
SPASO DURING MOSCOW VISIT AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO
ARRANGE DINNER I HIS HONOR. WE WILL SUBMIT FURTHER
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING DETAILED SCHEDULE WHEN QUESTION
OF TBILISI VISIT IS RESOLVED.
TOON

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